

BRADY PINCUSHION CACTUS
(*Pediocactus bradyi*)

STATUS: Endangered (44 FR 61784, October 26, 1979) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: This is a small, semi-globose cactus with one (occasionally more) stem up to 6.1 cm (2.4 in) tall and 5.1 cm (2 in) in diameter. Spines are white or yellowish-tan. The spine clusters consist of 1-2 central spines and 14-15 spreading radial spines. Flowers are straw-yellow, are produced at the top of the stem, and appear in the spring. During the dry seasons, the plants retract and are flush with the soil surface.

HABITAT: Grows on benches and terraces at 1,170-1,370 m (3,850-4,500 ft) elevation in the Navajoan Desert near Marble Gorge (Coconino County, Arizona). The substrate is composed of Kaibab limestone chips overlying soil derived from Moenkopi shale and sandstone outcrops. Dominant plant species in the community are shadescale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*), and desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*).

RANGE: Current: The several known localities are all near Marble Gorge (Coconino County, Arizona).

Potential: In suitable habitat near Marble Gorge. The species Recovery Plan states that although large areas of potential habitat have been surveyed, plants have only been located in about 10-20% of the surveyed areas.

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: The limited distribution and small number of populations make this species vulnerable to extinction. Off-road vehicle traffic, pesticide application, illegal collecting, and herbivory by native animals are current threats. Uranium mining and exploration could potentially cause the loss of habitat.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: Bureau of Land Management, the Navajo Tribe, Glen Canyon National Recreational Area, and State Highway right-of-ways.

NOTES: Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Also protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.

A Recovery Plan was completed in March 1985 and is available online at:
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/BradyPincushionCactus.pdf>